



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

Maine Project Office
675 Western Avenue, #3
Manchester, Maine 04351

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: April 18, 2000
Comment Period Ends: May 18, 2000
File Number: 199902199
In Reply Refer To: Shawn Mahaney
Or by e-mail: Shawn.B.Mahaney@usace.army.mil

30 DAY COMMENT PERIOD

LEE M. HARRIS & GEORGE S. HARRIS, JR., HARRIS POINT, EASTPORT, MAINE 04631-0014 has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to install and maintain up to 24 floating fish pens within a 1090' x 1197' (332.2m x 364.8m) area off Matthews Island in Cobscook Bay at Eastport, Maine as shown on the attached plans and described as follows:

Each pen would measure approximately 91.8'x 91.8' (24m x 24m) and would be connected together to form two (20), 20 pen systems, each measuring approximately 183.7'x 541.3' (56m x 165m). All pens would be bottom moored by 2-3 ton blocks/stone or anchors and weir stakes and would be serviced by a 40'x 16' (12m x 4.9m) work barge which would provide feed and equipment storage and employee shelter. The pens and site would be used to raise Atlantic salmon, Donaldson trout, Atlantic cod, haddock and Atlantic halibut, Atlantic sea scallops, green sea urchins and blue mussels for commercial retail.

The project is located on the EASTPORT, ME quadrangle sheet at Universal Transverse Mercator grid coordinates N 4977696, E 648628.

The project would impact approximately 30 acres of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) - see attached sheet 4 for list of species and life stages. This habitat consists of subtidal area consisting of silt, sand and gravel and a minimum of 20' at mean low water. The feeding of the fish would take place. The proposed project is expected to have only short-term impacts on fish. During the placement of anchors/blocks, and pens, fish in the project area may be displaced by suspended sediments and noise. No impacts are expected from structures or sediment build up.

Based upon this assessment of impacts to EFH, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect would not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

On November 17, 1999, the National Marines Fisheries service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Services) published a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register to list a distinct population segment (DPS) of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in the Gulf of Maine as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Services expect to publish a final decision on this listing proposal on or before November 17, 2000. Further consultation with the Services regarding ESA recommendations for the raising and harvesting of Atlantic salmon at this site is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice. Comments should be addressed to Shawn Mahaney, Project Manager at the address noted above.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Such requests shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

Sincerely,

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR
DETAILS OF EVALUATION
FACTORS**

**David H. Killoy, P.E., C.P.G.
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Section
Regulatory Branch**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

If you would prefer not to continue receiving public notices, please check here () and return this portion of the public notice to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New England District, ATTN: Regulatory Branch, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Summary of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Designation

10' x 10' Square Coordinates:

Boundary	North	East	South	West
Coordinate	45 00.0' N	67 00.0' W	44 50.0' N	67 10.0' W

Square Description (i.e. habitat, landmarks, coastline markers): Waters within the square within Passamaquoddy Bay affecting the following: Lubec Neck, Johnson Bay, North Lubec, ME., Rodgers I., Major I., Comstock Pt., Cooper I., Cooper I. Ledge, Gove Pt., Seward Neck, Eaton Cove, Case Cove, Red Pt., Scrub I., Long I., Black Head, Federal Harbor, Horan Head, Hog I., Cobble Hill, Cobbscook Bay, South Bay, Razor I., Wilson Ledges, Edgecomb Pt., Youngs Pt., Denbow Pt., Denbow Neck, Denbow I., Mink I., Fox I., Huckins I., Morrison Cove, Nutter Cove, Marong Cove, Coffins Neck, Coffins Pt., Gooseberry I., Parker I., Dougherty Cove, Dougherty Pt., Carlos Cove, Talbot Cove, Straight Bay, Race Pt., Raft Cove, North Trescott Township, Crow Neck, Carrying Place Cove, Bar I., Whiting Bay, Birch Is., Hallowell I., Edmunds, ME., Dram I., Little Dram I., Wilbur Neck, Leighton Neck Falls, Ruth Pt., Falls I., Mahar Pt., Cobscook Falls, Long Cove, Schooner Cove, Red I., Smith Rock, Kelly Pt., Deep Cove, Broad Cove, Shackleford Head, Two Hour Rock, Pennmaquan River, Herseys Upper Ledge, Coggins Head, Hersey Pt., Hersey, Cove, Hersey Neck, Garnett Pt., Sipp Bay, East bay, Leach Pt., Pattangal Cove, Redington I., Clement Pt., Birch Pt., Birch Pt., Ledge, Lincoln Cove, Nipps I., Bar Harbor, Frost Head, Little River, Gleason Pt., Frost Cove, Pleasant Pt., Mitchell Pt., Carlow I., Kendall Head, Quoddy, ME., and most of Moose I., except for the southeast part including Eastport, ME., and Estes Head. These waters extend strictly out to the Hague Line within the United States of America Exclusive Economic Zone.

Species	Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)			X	X
Atlantic cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)		X	X	X
haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)				
pollock (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)		X	X	X
whiting (<i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>)			X	X
offshore hake (<i>Merluccius albidus</i>)				
red hake (<i>Urophycis chuss</i>)			X	X
white hake (<i>Urophycis tenuis</i>)			X	X
redfish (<i>Sebastes fasciatus</i>)	n/a			
witch flounder (<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>)				
winter flounder (<i>Pleuronectes americanus</i>)	X	X	X	X
yellowtail flounder (<i>Pleuronectes ferruginea</i>)	X	X		
windowpane flounder (<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>)	X	X	X	X
American plaice (<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>)	X	X	X	X
ocean pout (<i>Macrozoarces americanus</i>)	X	X	X	X
Atlantic halibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>)	X	X	X	X
Atlantic sea scallop (<i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>)	X	X	X	X
Atlantic sea herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)		X	X	X
monkfish (<i>Lophius americanus</i>)				
bluefish (<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>)				
long finned squid (<i>Loligo pealei</i>)	n/a	n/a		
short finned squid (<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>)	n/a	n/a		
Atlantic butterfish (<i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>)				
Atlantic mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)			X	X
summer flounder (<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>)				
scup (<i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>)	n/a	n/a		
black sea bass (<i>Centropristus striata</i>)	n/a			
surf clam (<i>Spisula solidissima</i>)	n/a	n/a		
ocean quahog (<i>Artica islandica</i>)	n/a	n/a		
spiny dogfish (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	n/a	n/a		
tilefish (<i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i>)				